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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1948

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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Chairman of the Council: COUNCILLOR W. S JOHNSON, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: COUNCILLOR S. MAYCOCK, J.P.

Councillors: F. A. BATES, J.P., R. E. FARWELL, H. J. PRICE, T. CLORAN, D. A. PACY.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)

(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B. and Buckingham R.D.C., Area M.O. for North Bucks. and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks. Division and Buckingham and Winslow District.*)

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1948.

The health of the District for the year under review has been satisfactory.

The Death Rate shows a very satisfactory drop compared with 1947 and is also much less than that for the County and for England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a slight rise compared with the previous year, but still remains lower than the rate for the County and is much lower than that for England and Wales.

Infectious Diseases showed an increase in the number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough. This increase was fairly general over the country and not peculiar to this District.

I should like again to thank your officers and their staffs for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS		1947	1948
Area (in acres)		4462	4462
Population		8620	9165
Number of Inhabited Houses ...		2550	2772
Rateable Value (1/4/48)		£52860	£53219
Rate per £1		18/-	21/-
Sum represented by 1d. Rate ...		£213/0/4	£221/14/11
BIRTHS :			
Legitimate	Males	84	79
	Females	90	72
Illegitimate	Males	7	3
	Females	3	1
Birth rate per 1,000 Population ...		21.3	16.9
Birth rate per 1,000 Population— Bucks County		20.1	17.5
Birth rate per 1,000 Population— England and Wales		20.5	17.9
Still Births	Males	4	5
	Females	3	—
DEATHS :	Males	48	43
	Females	58	38
Death rate per 1,000 Population ...		12.2	8.8
Death rate per 1,000 Population— Bucks County		11.3	9.6
Death rate per 1,000 Population— England and Wales		12	10.8
Maternal Mortality		Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality—England and Wales		1.17	1.02

INFANTILE MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	21.7	25.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County	30.8	26.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales	41	34
Deaths from Measles	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	0	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age	0	0

Principal Causes of Death :

	1947			1948		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	2	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2	1	1	2
Other Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2	0	0	0
Cancer	8	12	20	12	2	14
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	6	7	13	3	7	10
Heart Disease	14	16	30	12	15	27
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	2	3	1	0	1
Bronchitis	3	2	5	2	2	4
Pneumonia	4	1	5	1	3	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	0	1	0	1	1
Digestive Disease	1	2	3	1	2	3
Nephritis	1	1	2	1	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	1	0	1	2	0	2
Violence	1	3	4	2	1	3
All Other Causes	1	7	8	4	3	7
Total ...	45	56	101	42	37	79

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Oxford and Luton. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis had however to be sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) Infectious Diseases : These cases were transported by the Ambulance of the Grove Isolation Hospital or the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

(b) General Cases including Accidents : The U.D.C. Ambulance together with the valuable services of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross did an excellent job of work during the year.

(c) From the 5th July the administration of the Ambulance Services was taken over by the County Council. This involved the taking over of the Bletchley U.D.C. Ambulance, Bletchley being the only District Authority in the county which had the distinction of running its own Ambulance Service.

A new Ambulance Station with 2 Ambulances was proposed for Bletchley and this has since been implemented.

3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

4. CLINICS

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare : This clinic has been held weekly at the Welfare Clinic in Bletchley Road. The voluntary committee, District Nurses and Health Visitor attended each time and a doctor attended once a fortnight. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time, ungrudgingly, to this work.

(b) Chest Clinic : This clinic was organised during the year and is doing excellent work. It is a self-contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic : This unit, organised by the British Red Cross, is now installed in new quarters behind the Council Offices and is doing excellent work for the District.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have served this area :

Infectious Diseases : Grove Hospital
Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Slade Hospital, Oxford.

Tuberculosis : Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium.

General : Northampton General Hospital.

Bedford County Hospital
London Hospitals
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury
Tindal House, Aylesbury

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A. WATER

(a) Quality

Bacteriological and chemical analysis have shown that a high standard of purity has been maintained as the undermentioned results will show :

(i) Nature of sample ... Household tap from Western Road.

Plate Count Yeastral Agar 2 days 37 deg. C. aerobically ... ... O per ml.

Probable number of Coliform bacilli Mac-Conkey 2 days 37 deg. C. ... ... 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks :

This water falls in Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's grading.

(ii.) Nature of sample ... Household tap, Wilton Avenue.

Analysis :	Parts per 100,000
Suspended Solids	Nil
Dissolved Solids	18.0
Chloride (as Cl2)	1.45
Nitrate (as N2)	0.14
Nitrite	Very faint trace
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80 deg. F.)	0.016 (N/80)
pH Value	6.9
Free CO2	0.95
Free Ammonia	0.0024
Albumenoid Ammonia	0.0036
Permanent Hardness	4.57
Temporary Hardness	3.38
Total Hardness	7.95
Iron	0.002

During the year the well from which the whole of the water was drawn collapsed and one of the new boreholes (No. 2) was rushed into commission. In addition, 1 2/3rd miles of pipe were laid to connect the reservoir of the Apsley Guise, Apsley Heath and Woburn Sands Drainage and Water Supply Committee at Bow Brickhill with the Council's Service Reservoir at Little Brickhill, and a supply of some 200,000 gallons per day has been obtained from this source.

The well was abandoned and filled in, yet, despite this disaster, at no time did the supply of water to the town fail.

The Council decided to proceed to sink a third borehole (No. 3), and the services of Professor Edgar Morton, B.Sc., an eminent Engineering Geologist, were enlisted to fix the site of this. Work was commenced, and it is expected that this should be in operation by May, 1949.

Additional pumps had to be purchased to maintain the supply, one of which is installed at the Birchmoor Pumping Station of the aforementioned Water Committee, to ensure continuity of supply from that source.

When No. 3 borehole is completed it is expected to yield about 12,000 gallons per hour and this, together with a similar quantity from No. 2 borehole, should just about meet the consumption. It is essential that a further borehole (No. 4) be sunk with the least possible delay.

Only six houses within the Urban District are not connected to the town mains

B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The construction of the new sewer and Pumping Station to replace the Ejector in Manor Road has proceeded but slowly, but it is expected that the work will be completed early in 1949, with the exception of the pumping plant.

A temporary pump was installed to relieve the Ejector at Manor Road and this has successfully overcome difficulties of sewer flooding at this point in times of heavy flow.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Simpson has continued to work at full capacity, and the question of a new works there is becoming an urgent necessity.

The Disposal Works at Old Bletchley has been further loaded by reason of the new houses being erected on the Newton Road Estate and this works too is rapidly being loaded to its full capacity.

C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

No stagnation or obstructions occurred in the streams within the area during the year under review.

D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

All the houses in Water Eaton have now been connected to the public sewer.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection and disposal of household refuse has continued satisfactorily during the year.

F. SHOPS

The provision of lavatory accommodation at two cafes within the district has been impeded by building difficulties.

G. CAMPING SITES

No sites registered.

H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Further complaints of dust from the flues of the coffee factory (Messrs. Joseph Tetley) have been investigated. The management have decided to erect a new factory on Denbigh Road and this nuisance should then be abated.

I. SWIMMING BATHS

The Swimming Pool at The Grange being again open to the public has somewhat alleviated the need for a Public Swimming Bath. but the smallness of this Bath precludes it from being able to provide but a fraction of the necessary swimming accommodation. The chlorinating apparatus installed there last year has ensured a satisfactory condition of the water there.

The provision of the Public Swimming Bath in the town still remains one of the most necessary amenities yet to be provided.

J. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Action has been taken during the year in two cases for the eradication of bed bugs.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT (J. F. Smithie)

INSPECTIONS MADE

Water ...	266	Housing ...	263	Buildings ...	416
Bakehouses ...	10	Sewerage ...	134	Destructor ...	39
Factories ...	18	Drainage ...	311	Smoke ...	4
Food Premises	40			Slaughterhouses	235

Total Inspections	1736
Houses and Clothing disinfected	4
Informal Notices	49
Statutory Notices	2

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

1.	(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	49
		(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	85
	(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	49
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	49
	(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
	(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0
2.			Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices : Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers	47
3.			Action under Statutory Powers during the year	1
4.			HOUSING ACT, 1936 : Part Iv. OVERCROWDING	
	(i)	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
		(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	0
		(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	0
	(ii)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
	(iii)	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
		(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0
	(iv)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
	(v)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	0

Two hundred and twenty-two new Council Houses have been completed in 1948 and work on 147 others was in progress at the end of the year.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

The register contains 34 farms and 30 retailers of milk.

(b) Meat

The Sanitary Inspector continued his duties as meat inspector and has submitted the following figures :

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1050	Nil	721	2551	51
Number Inspected	1050	Nil	721	2551	51
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	3	Nil	2	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	154	Nil	2	6	12
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis	14.95%	Nil	0.554%	0.353%	25.49%
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	47	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.0476%	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.96%

SECTION F.

FACTORIES ACT

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and copies forwarded to the relevant authorities.

SECTION G.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

During the year under review there was an increase in the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough.

One case of Polio-Encephalitis was notified. This was a very mild case indeed.

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Four cases were notified during the year, two pulmonary and two non-pulmonary.

There were two deaths from this disease notified.

3. CANCER

There were 14 deaths from this disease during the year, a decrease of six from previous year.

4. NOTIFICATIONS

Polio-Encephalitis	1
Chicken Pox	2
Pneumonia	10
Measles	102
Whooping Cough	60
Scarlet Fever	11
Erysipelas	1

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.